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UTROPIA  
—18—  
2 a Year  
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\$2.50  
PEOPLE  
WORTHY  
OF CREDIT.

# THE COUNCROPS.

Devoted to the Mining and Development of the Windermere and Golden Divisions of the District of North East Kootenay.

Book IV., Chapter 30.

Wilmer, B. C., Thursday, December 24, 1903.

\$2.00 Per Year.

## A Western Christmas

### Life at Stake in a Game of Poker

neath, the crash of an overturned lamp on the floor, a rush, a scuffle, the striking sound of one, two, three pistols, and big Jim Waters lay dead. As he fell his own revolver sounded again, he had hit his arm, and the shot went wild. Following this last sound came a profound silence.

But Henderson, professional gambler as he had been, stood for a moment or two in his revolver in his hand, still smoking, and he looked around at the grave set of the men who witnessed the murder. It was as if he hoped, but only expected, to hear some word of reconciliation if not approval, but no such word came.

Then his face changed. With a sudden he broke the silence himself. "All you men all witnesses," he said, "that I brought this on myself."

Still no man spoke. A terrible silence had come and if their silence might perhaps be connected with the fact that Henderson's gun was still in his hand and that he was known to be expert in the use of it. These were times in the room, however, who were ready enough to shoot when they drew the weapon first, and that may not have been the cause. Henderson spoke again. "Didn't he draw first?" he demanded angrily.

"Well, as to that," said Billy Ginter, who had been the first to speak. "You say he didn't draw first?"

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in a fair fight, I'll kill you on sight, but this is the only way I see, and if you're half a man you'll give me a chance."

Henderson looked around wildly. He was no coward, but the proposition was preposterous and staggered him. He was the others offered of it, and Billy Ginter said, "There's nothing fairer."

"I'll do it," said Henderson. And in a few minutes they were seated with cards and chips between them. A little to one side of the table lay the gun and ten \$100 bills.

"All I ask for is fair play," said the gambler as he picked up the cards. "And you can bet your life you'll get it," exclaimed Ginter. The other said nothing. Each man had 100 chips and they asked one calls two. For half a dozen deals there was nothing of importance to tell. Then on a junky Waters opened and Henderson came in. It was tied deal. Waters drew two cards and Red took them. After the draw Harry said: "I refuse to bet. I open on three kings." And he showed them. After waiting a moment he continued: "Now, I want to say that that's the first time when a man drew himself a card if the bottom of the deck I take in for an ace, and I don't back those kings."

"What then?" "Seven Red, but the other interrupted. "Do you want to see show your hand?" Here it was. "I haven't shuffled yet," I don't want to see what you've got. He drew it as well as I do. But don't put it in again."

The big man shook his head. "You miserable little whelp!" he roared, but Ginter interrupted. "Butter knock out. If it's got you lost to rights and your only chance is to show them." But Henderson's mind was too much for him. He put his hand up to his forehead.

The first deal did not end much long. A full against a flush took half of Henderson's chips, and he looked a good deal straight against a flush for a considerable number of chips, when after he had done given to twenty chips he tried to carry a bluff through. It was not half done, either, for Waters had opened a pot for five chips and he showed it before the draw. Then Waters took those chips and bet again, and Henderson took two and raised it to ten.

He had showed out a suit of kings, red, and Waters showed them a pair, and the strange war began.

Shook the hand back and forth and picked up the cards, looking straight at Henderson, the while, and waiting for some treacherous movement. The other sat like a statue, however, though he had suddenly gone as white as chalk.

Still more slowly the gambler looked at the woman and brought it up about in a bed. Then his hand suddenly shook.

"Damn it! Why don't you show?" exclaimed Henderson. "I pay your money."

"It isn't that," said Waters. "My hand is too weak to hold the thing straight, and I don't want to take two shots."

As he spoke he raised the woman again, using his hands to his eyes and looking at her with an evident effort to look careful and pulled the trigger.

Henderson lost a foot on that shot, the witness of the strange scene for some few minutes, but when he had taken his hand he came back as white as a sheet with a sudden fit of trembling. "The worst I can do is to call the bluff by name again and again, and the weeping was followed by hard coughing, which continued till he was entirely helpless and they had to carry him to his room."

And when they talked of carrying him to appear at the inquest, they found him dead in his bed. In his hand was tightly clasped a sheet of paper on which was written: "This is my merited all Christmas's. I have been meeting for Jim, who was killed by me."

Then you're a coward. Mr. Bul. If I was a man that was able to meet you

## A CHRISTMAS SONG.

BY ELLA WHITTIER WILSON.

Bound to the wheel of life we whirl through space,  
Whence the hazzing, where the resting place,  
And I wait the purpose, no more to explain.  
But this we know—God made no thing in vain.

Each is essential to the marvelled scheme,  
The anchored mountain and the moving stream,  
The sea below us, and the stars on high,  
All, obey the Cause, nor question why.

Glad is the mountain in the morning—kiss,  
The river laughs and leaps the prospect,  
The sea shouts loud Huzzas, while above  
The eyes of planets radiate with love.

That art a part of the perfect whole,  
Be glad, be glad of life, immortal soul.

## DISTRICT CROPPINGS

### And Other Items of Interest in a General Way

Some special reports will be published in the Wilmer section under the name of R. M. Wright.

The National World has again become a free press paper. It is a daily paper and is free to all.

Many of the people who are in the Wilmer section are now in the Wilmer section.

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for her home in February. Mrs. Montague will shortly leave for Armstrong for the holidays.

It is said that the Imperial Hotel has been sold to the British and a new owner has taken hold of it.

The matter of the Liberator's gift to Mrs. Montague has been made a point in this town, who is now starting for the morning.

The stand place window presented to the and Mrs. J. A. T. in memory of their son, who has been placed in the hands of St. Paul's school. Mrs. J. A. T. is now starting for the morning service in the town of a mountain view.

## Golden's Smelter a Success

This work has been the successful starting up of the Golden's Smelter, which has been placed in the hands of St. Paul's school. Mrs. J. A. T. is now starting for the morning service in the town of a mountain view.

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## THE OUTCROP.

Published every Thursday in the heart of a Wonderfully Rich Mineral and Agricultural District.

Subscription, \$2.00 a Year; Foreign countries, \$2.50.

Exchange must be called on checks.

Advertising rates: Display ads., \$2 per column inch per month. Legal ads., 10 cents per line for first insertion and 10 cents each additional insertion except 25 cents per line each issue. Delivery of 100 copies per notice free. Large grant mineral claim notice, \$7.50; Timber limit notice, \$5.

A. P. Wells,

Publisher and Proprietor.

WILMER, B.C., THURSDAY, DEC. 24, 1903.

## Scientific Miscellany.

While character may be often read from physical peculiarities, K. Pearson, F.R.S., points out that the value of the indications can be estimated only from careful statistics. Tabulated observations upon large numbers of school children have given interesting results. The color of the eyes seems to have some relation to conscientiousness: 71 per cent of boys with light eyes being keenly conscientious, while the percentage was only 61 in boys with dark eyes. Curtness or smoothness of the hair has slight significance, if any. The color of the hair is more important, 71 per cent of the red-haired being keenly conscientious, but only 66 per cent of the dark-haired and 55 per cent of the black-haired. The very dark-haired show twice as many individuals of sullen temper as the red-haired, although the red-haired are much more quick-tempered. The dark-eyed are rather healthier than the light, but the latter show rather higher intelligence. Of shy and quiet people, 75 per cent are keenly conscientious, while the percentage in the self-assertive is but 50. Bad handwriting often attends great moral failing, but good handwriting betokens health, good temper, ability and conscientiousness.

A magnificent experiment awaits only an appropriation from some capitalist's wealth. Sir Oliver Lodge mentions that twenty years ago he proved that fog could be dissipated electrically, and in a dense fog he cleared a space of 50 to 60 yards radius by means of the discharger from a Wimshurst machine. Only lack of means prevented an attempt to give London a clear atmosphere. Recent advances make possible the desired kind of dynamo for a continuous current, and it is believed that an excessive amount of machinery would not be necessary, for the fog occurs in a still atmosphere and are seldom of considerable height. Sir Oliver suggests also that rain might be electrically produced, as in India, where the dark monsoon clouds pass over without discharging.

Houses of sand, as substantial as granite, are offered by the new process of L. P. Ford, of Gresford, Eng. A mixture of sand and quicklime in suitable proportions is forced into a very strong steel mold, which is placed in a box, from which the air is then pumped, when hot water is admitted. The heat and pressure of the slacking lime and steam mold the materials into a rock having 50 per cent of the strength of granite. This building stone, ready for use in eight hours, is very durable, and its cost is low, bricks by this process costing little more than half as much as the ordinary.

Bituminous shale is estimated to cover 50,000 square miles in the United States to an average depth of 30 feet. The newly patented process of Otto Oppelt, a Kentucky chemist, is expected to produce from this waste material a good quality of gas and oil, and to supply these for industrial purposes at a cost much lower than that of the gas now used. The process will yield also valuable by-products, including silicate and sulphate of alumina, ammonia, sulphate of iron, paraffina and phosphoric acid.

The changes of color of leaves in autumn are found by Dr. Keegan, an English investigator, to depend on the mineral matters, especially the silica and lime. Leaves that become red are those containing less than 10 per cent of silica, while those that become yellow or brown have more than 10 per cent. The mineral matters seem to flow to the dying leaf in quantity proportionate to the decay of its vitality, and the American climate sustains the vitality of the leaf to a degree not possible in England, where Indian summer is rare.

A long weather cycle of about 37 years seems to appear in the British Isles. From records of 50 years, Mr. Douglas Archibald concludes that a dry period has just passed, and that the years from 1901 to about 1920 will show more than average rainfall and low barometer, and two bushels per bushel of wheat yield.

Some remarkable photographs of Prof. S. Ledue, of Nantes, represent a kind of electric stenciling upon the dry plates. A symmetrical design cut from cardboard is laid upon the plate, which is then sprinkled with an insulating powder, such as starch, sulphur, or a powdered oxide or metallic salt, when the cardboard is removed. The non-sensitive surface of the plate is placed on a metallic leaf connected to one pole of an induction coil or electric machine, while a point in the center of the design is connected to the other pole. A single discharge is produced, the plate is freed from powder and the picture is developed in the usual way. The result is always unforeseen. It may be varied not only by different designs, but by distributing over the sensitive surface various bits of different metals, and by using different powder variously distributed. The beauty and diversity of the designs pictured give great fascination to the experiments.

## THE HOTEL WILMER.

Is a new building and is furnished throughout with all modern improvements.

The bar is supplied with the choicest brands of Wines, Liquors and Cigars.

THE TOURIST or Tenderfoot who wanders into Wilmer should always camp at the Hotel Wilmer.

Within its doors can be found beds that woo the weary to dreamless sleep, drinks that calm the troubled soul, and food that no epicure could pass without sampling. If you want anything more see

GEORGE CHAMBERLAIN, Proprietor.

## Canadian Pacific Railway

Train pass Golden:  
Eastbound ..... 15:10  
Westbound ..... 10:20

Steamers leave Golden for the Windermere at 4 a.m., Tuesdays and Fridays, returning Wednesdays and Saturdays.

Stage for Windermere District leaves Golden at 8 o'clock, Sundays and arrives in Golden at 10:30 on Fridays. Leaving Windermere every Thursday at 8 a.m. and arriving Monday at 10 p.m.

Passengers booked to all Eastern Canadian and United States points.

Boats reserved on Atlantic steamers for passengers to the Old Country.

Direct steamer service from Vancouver to China, Japan, Australia, Alaska

Full information and Illustrated Pamphlet furnished on Application.  
C. E. WELLS, E. J. COYLE,  
Agents, Vancouver, B.C.

## LAKE &amp; CO.

## Merry Xmas. to All

## Head-quarters for Holiday Supplies

If you want Groceries of the best quality that the market affords for your Christmas puddings and cakes we can provide you with everything you may possibly require at prices that will please the most economical housekeepers in this valley. We have selected our groceries carefully and they are all nice and fresh. All orders receive prompt and careful attention.

## GET ON THE INSIDE OF AN UP-TO-DATE WINTER SUIT.

It does not cost any more to wear good clothes than poor ones. The only difference is where you do your purchasing. We are Right Here with the Goods all the Time. If there is anything you want in the Ready-Made Clothing Line, Hats, Caps, Neckties, or anything else you wear you can get it from us.

In fact we have now a Large Stock of most every Line you may mention.

LAKE & CO.,  
General Merchants,  
Athelmer, - - - B.C.

## THE OUTCROP



## Fellow Pilgrims All!

Should you in your wanderings about this globe have an itching soul in your anatomy to read a trail-free newspaper giving all the news of North East Kingdom, read for this reason. The up-to-date Trail Rider is located in the heart of the most beautiful valley in North America, surrounded by wealthy ranchers and close to the richest silver metal mines in the world. The Outcrop comes out in hundreds of places in the Western Hemisphere and the ledge has been discovered in the Eastern Hemisphere in such places as England, Ireland, Scotland, France, India, South Africa, Germany and Australia. It comes to the front every Thursday, and has never been failed by the sheet. It works for the Trail Rider as well as the hunter and explorer and capitalist. Its office is poor, but also to be a millionaire by selling on the right side of all things, and believes the righteous should all go to Paradise and that hell should be dealt out according to the wickedness accomplished.

A High Grade Chute of Job Printing is uncovered and is worked for the benefit of Humanity and the Trail

Oldest and Most Reliable Newspaper in North East Kingdom.  
Only Paper printed in the Rich Windermere Mining District.  
News while it is News given without fear or favor to all.

Limit, 1,000,000 Copies--Avoid Rush.



The W. M. Co.

May  
Your  
Xmas.  
Be a  
Joyous  
One.

THE  
Wilmer Mercantile  
Company,

GEO. REHDER, - - - Manager.

### Croppings

The skating on Windermere lake continued excellent and is greatly enjoyed.

Tickets for the New Year's Eve ball at Athalmer are being sold rapidly. A good time is anticipated.

The Muskoka Free Hospital for Consumptives is the only institution of the kind in Canada and it appears to be accomplishing much good. We are requested to say that funds are urgently needed and should be sent to W. J. Gage, Toronto.

### Against Raffles.

It is said that at Golden the real good people stopped a man from raffling a house worth \$2000, but the Star says a horse and watch was recently raffled—consistency then art no jewel in that burg. It is said the Methodist and Presbyterian pilots have objected to this chance game, yet there are other chance games that the dominations which they represent recognize as good things. The following from an exchange across the line is an instance:

"We remember away back East once attended a Methodist chance game known as 'Postoffice.' In this game a man attended a door to a dark room and a young lady called a young man in—the doorkeeper collecting five cents—and the young man was allowed two minutes to find the girl and kiss her, but if he did not succeed he was fined ten cents, and the money went to the church—they made money fast at this chance game, we scored twice on a dollar and then caught the loveliest girl in the bunch. Another time it was a Presbyterian 'Nocktie' game. We dove into a basket and fished out a beautiful sky-blue-scarlet nocktie, then a girl said that the girl who got a tie to match it would be along presently and we must buy whatever she wanted. The girl appeared and she had not seen more than 40 summers, but she could eat two dishes of ice cream with cake every five minutes and glass or two of lemonade to aid digestion she said. When we offered to see her home she said her husband might not like it and she had to call for her five

## Merry Xmas. to All

The holiday season is upon us and merriment is throughout the shivery hills of the great Windermere. We wish everybody—including the delinquent subscribers—red roaring time and trust that all the boys have come here to send back some token to the old folks at home. Away in the east, or elsewhere are thousands of people who have their loved ones in this famous country, and they will cause their hearts to beat higher than to receive a substantial Xmas. present from their boys. Frocks, pictures and trail blazers, have you done the square thing for Xmas, with your absent parents, wives and sweethearts? So, then on with the dance and let it not cease until the gulch from Findlay creek to Golden rings with the laughter of a populace that cannot be beaten in the wide and expansive world.

children on the way. We did not persist on seeing em'gill home." Now, who would not take a chance on a \$2000 house in preference to these other games?

Rev. Fraser will conduct services every Sunday in Windermere at 11 a. m. Athalmer at 3 p. m. and Wilmer at 7:30 p. m., excepting the first Sunday in each month, when he holds services at Galena.

Rev. Mr. E. St. G. Smith will conduct divine service in Wilmer at 11 a. m. of the first Sunday of each month.

Property worth owning is being secured in the Canadian Pacific Railway Co. Apply to W. P. Fraser, agent.

Divine service is held every Sunday evening in St. Peter's Church, Galena, at 7:30 p. m. All are welcome.

**ATHALMER  
SAW MILL.**

Is Now  
Prepared to  
Fill Orders  
For Lumber  
of all Kinds

JAS. L. MCKAY, Proprietor.

Chas. Cartwright, Agent, Athalmer, B. C.

TERMS, STRICTLY CASH TO ALL.

Never let an old year die without paying the bill.

The Peterborough Trading Company, WILMER, B. G.

A Merry Christmas to All Our Customers!

We have in

Stock a lot of Goods that You will need in Sending Your Greetings.

Come and See our Useful gifts.

Poultry, Cranberries, Oysters, Finnan Haddie, Raisins, Nuts,  
Peels of All Kinds, Apples, Dry Goods, Etc.

The Peterborough Trading Company, - General Merchants, - Wilmer, B. C.